



City of Baltimore Department of Public Works

600 ABEL WOLMAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202
MAYOR SHEILA DIXON DIRECTOR GEORGE L. WINFIELD

MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, August 28, 2007

**Oh Say Can You See...Lake Montebello?
Yes! Now better than ever.**

The Grand Re-Opening of Baltimore's popular landmark is August 29th.

Mayor Sheila Dixon will join the community leaders, neighbors, elected officials and recreation enthusiasts in a ceremony to celebrate the grand re-opening of the Lake Montebello at **11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 29, 2007**. The event will take place at **Kentucky Avenue and Lake Montebello Drive**. A special appearance will be made by the **Morgan State University Band, the "Magnificent Marching Machine,"** under the direction of Mr. Melvin Miles. (The band will begin playing at 10:45 a.m.)

Attendees will be able to view **photographs of the lake and surrounding area taken 100 years ago**. These were printed from **glass negative plates discovered at the facility and are being publicly displayed for the first time**. They will be on temporary display on the fence surrounding the lake. **Free commemorative Lake Montebello souvenirs and refreshments will also be provided.**

Lake Montebello is an integral part of the water system for metropolitan Baltimore as well as a popular recreational landmark. The lake is composed of residual water from the filtration process. With new technology that water will, in the next few years, begin to be re-processed into drinking water. The lake has been newly dredged to remove sediment, thereby increasing storage capacity and offering protection to aquatic life, the Herring Run and the Chesapeake Bay. Included in this work are other improvements such as a new **resurfaced roadway around the perimeter of the lake for vehicular and pedestrian/bike traffic, connecting bike trails, bike racks, a landscaped median, new decorative lighting, new ornamental fencing, decorative trash containers, and removal of invasive phragmites and weeds along the shoreline, replaced with new hardy shrubs and grasses**. Additional **crosswalks** have been added around the perimeter for the increased safety of school children and other pedestrians. Visitors to the area will also notice **new and improved signs**.

Lake Montebello improvements were made by Synagro Mid-Atlantic in conjunction with the Baltimore City Departments of Public Works and Transportation. The project design was done by Whitman, Requardt and Associates. The total cost was \$15 million and has been **completed nine months ahead of schedule**.

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